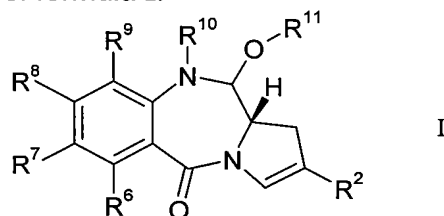


Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A compound of formula I:



and salts, solvates and chemically protected forms thereof,
wherein:

R^6 and R^9 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH_2 , NHR, NRR' , nitro, Me_3Sn and halo;

R and R' are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{3-20} heterocyclyl and C_{5-20} aryl groups;

R^7 and R^8 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH_2 , NHR, NRR' , nitro, Me_3Sn and halo,

or the compound is a dimer with each monomer being of formula (I), where the R^7 groups or R^8 groups of each monomers form together a dimer bridge having the formula $-X-R''-X-$ linking the monomers, where R'' is a C_{3-12} alkylene group, which chain may be interrupted by one or more heteroatoms and/or aromatic rings, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or NH;
or any pair of adjacent groups from R^6 to R^9 together form a group $-O-(CH_2)_p-O-$, where p is 1 or 2;

R^{10} is a carbamate-based nitrogen protecting group;

R^{11} is an oxygen protecting group; and

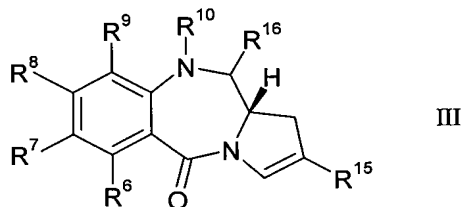
R^2 is a labile leaving group.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^9 is H.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound according to either claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein R^6 is selected from H, OH, OR, SH, NH_2 , nitro and halo.

4. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1~~, wherein R^{10} is Troc.

5. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1~~, wherein R¹¹ is a silyl oxygen protecting group or THP.
6. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1~~, wherein R² is triflate.
7. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1~~, wherein R⁷ and R⁸ are independently selected from H, OH, OR, SH, NH₂, NHR, NRR' and halo.
8. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~, wherein the compound is a dimer with each monomer being of formula (I), where the R⁷ groups or R⁸ groups of each monomer form together a dimer bridge having the formula -O-(CH₂)_n-O- linking the monomers, where n is from 3 to 12.
9. (Original) A compound according to claim 8, wherein n is from 3 to 7.
10. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~either claim 8 or claim 9~~, wherein the substituents R⁸ join to form the dimer bridge.
11. (Previously presented) A compound of formula III:



and salts, solvates, chemically protected forms and prodrugs thereof, wherein:

R⁶ and R⁹ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me₃Sn and halo;

R and R' are independently selected from optionally substituted

C₁₋₁₂ alkyl, C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl and C₅₋₂₀ aryl groups;

R⁷ and R⁸ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me₃Sn and halo,

or any pair of adjacent groups from R⁶ to R⁹ together form a group

-O-(CH₂)_p-O-, where p is 1 or 2;

R¹⁰ is a carbamate-based nitrogen protecting group; and

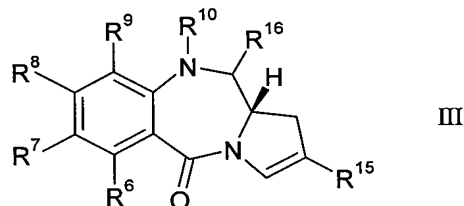
R¹⁶ is O-R¹¹, wherein R¹¹ is an oxygen protecting group,

and R¹⁵ is R.

12. (Original) A compound according to claim 11, wherein when R⁷ and R⁸ are OMe, R⁶ and R⁹ are H, and R¹⁵ is R, R is selected from the group 3-methoxyphenyl, 4-biphenyl, 4-phenoxyphenyl, 3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl, trans-2-(4-methylphenyl)vinyl, trans-propenyl, 4-dimethylaminophenyl, 4-methylthiophenyl, 4-vinylphenyl, 3,4-dichlorophenyl, 4-trifluoromethylphenyl, 4-isopropylphenyl, 4-cyanophenyl, 3-pyridinyl, 4-pyridinyl, 4-formylphenyl, 4-carboxylphenyl, 2,6-dimethoxyphenyl, 4-acetanilide, 4-aminophenyl, 1-naphthyl, 5-indole, 3-aminophenyl, 2,6-difluorophenyl, 1-pyrenyl, 4-hydroxyphenyl and trans-hexenyl.

13. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~either claim 11 or claim 12~~, wherein when R⁷ and R⁸ are OMe, R⁶ and R⁹ are H, and R¹⁵ is R, R is selected from a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group having a nitrogen ring atom, C₅₋₂₀ aryl group having a nitrogen-containing substituent, or a C₅₋₂₀ heteroaryl group having a nitrogen ring atom or a nitrogen-containing substituent.

14. (Previously presented) A compound of formula III:



and salts, solvates, chemically protected forms and prodrugs thereof, wherein:

R⁶ and R⁹ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me₃Sn and halo;

R and R' are independently selected from optionally substituted

C₁₋₁₂ alkyl, C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl and C₅₋₂₀ aryl groups;

the compound is a dimer with each monomer being of formula (I), where the R⁸ groups of each monomer form together a dimer bridge having the formula -X-R''-X- linking the monomers, where R'' is a C₃₋₁₂ alkylene group, which chain may be interrupted by one or more heteroatoms and/or aromatic rings, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or NH, and R⁷ is selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me₃Sn and halo,

or any pair of adjacent groups from R⁶ to R⁹ together form a group

-O-(CH₂)_p-O-, where p is 1 or 2;

R¹⁰ is a carbamate-based nitrogen protecting group; and

R¹⁶ is O-R¹¹, wherein R¹¹ is an oxygen protecting group, and R¹⁵ is an optionally substituted C₅₋₂₀ aryl group.

15. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 14, wherein the dimer bridge has the formula -O-(CH₂)_n-O- linking the monomers, where n is from 3 to 12.

16. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 15, wherein n is from 3 to 7.

17. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 14 to 16~~, wherein R¹⁰ and R¹⁶ together form a double bond between N10 and C11.

18. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 11 to 17~~, wherein R⁹ is H.

19. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 11 to 18~~, wherein R⁷ and R⁸ are independently selected from H, OH, OR, SH, NH₂, NHR, NRR', and halo.

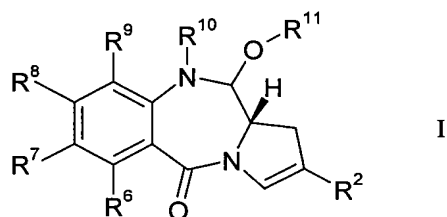
20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition containing a compound of ~~any one of claims 11 to 19~~, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

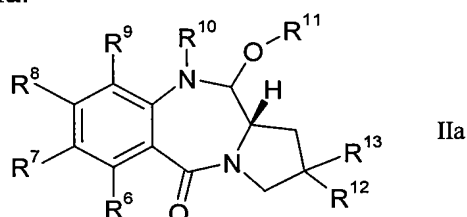
22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment of a proliferative disease, comprising administering to a subject in need of treatment a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound of ~~any one of claims 11 to 19~~.

24. (Original) A method of synthesising a compound of formula I:



from a compound of formula IIa:



wherein:

R^6 and R^9 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH_2 , NHR, NRR' , nitro, Me_3Sn and halo;

R and R' are independently selected from optionally substituted

C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{3-20} heterocyclyl and C_{5-20} aryl groups;

R^7 and R^8 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH_2 , NHR, NRR' , nitro, Me_3Sn and halo,

or the compound is a dimer with each monomer being of formula (I), where the R^7 groups or R^8 groups of each monomers form together a dimer bridge having the formula $-X-R''-X-$ linking the monomers, where R'' is a C_{3-12} alkylene group, which chain may be interrupted by one or more heteroatoms and/or aromatic rings, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or NH;
or any pair of adjacent groups from R^6 to R^9 together form a group $-O-(CH_2)_p-O-$, where p is 1 or 2;

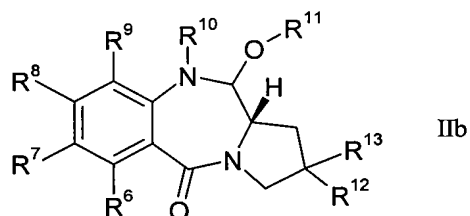
R^{10} is a carbamate-based nitrogen protecting group;

R^{11} is an oxygen protecting group;

R^2 is a labile leaving group; and

R^{12} and R^{13} together form $=O$.

25. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein the compound of formula IIa is synthesised from a compound of formula IIb:



wherein said compound of formula **IIb** has R^6 , R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{10} and R^{11} defined according to claim 25, and for said compound of formula **IIb** R^{12} is $O-R^{14}$, and R^{13} is H; and R^{14} is an oxygen protecting group orthogonal to R^{11} .

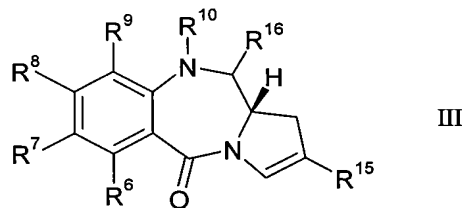
26. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 25, wherein the compound of formula **IIa** is synthesised using an oxidation reaction performed under Swern conditions, or a method involving the TPAP or the Dess Martin reagents.

27. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 24 to 26~~, wherein when R^2 in the compound of formula I is $-\text{OSO}_2\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{OSO}_2(\text{C}_n\text{F}_{2n+1})$ where $n = 0, 1$ or 4 , or $-\text{OSO}_2\text{R}^s$ where R^s is an optionally substituted phenyl group, then said compound of formula I is synthesised by using a treatment step with the appropriate R^2 anhydride.

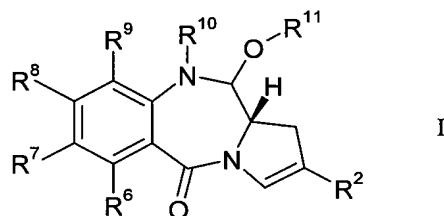
28. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 24 to 26~~, wherein when R^2 in the compound of formula I is $-\text{I}$ or $-\text{Br}$, then said compound of formula I is synthesised by using a reaction step involving hydrazine and iodine or bromine.

29. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 24 to 26~~, wherein when R^2 in the compound of formula I is $-\text{Cl}$, then said compound of formula I is synthesised by using a reaction step involving phosphorous oxychloride.

30. (Original) A method of synthesising a compound of formula **III**:



from a compound of formula I:



wherein

R⁶ and R⁹ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me₃Sn and halo;

R and R' are independently selected from optionally substituted

C₁₋₁₂ alkyl, C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl and C₅₋₂₀ aryl groups;

R⁷ and R⁸ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me₃Sn and halo,

or the compound is a dimer with each monomer being of formula (I), where the R⁷ groups or R⁸ groups of each monomers form together a dimer bridge having the formula -X-R''-X- linking the monomers, where R'' is a C₃₋₁₂ alkylene group, which chain may be interrupted by one or more heteroatoms and/or aromatic rings, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or NH;

or any pair of adjacent groups from R⁶ to R⁹ together form a group

-O-(CH₂)_p-O-, where p is 1 or 2;

R¹⁰ is a carbamate-based nitrogen protecting group;

R² is a labile leaving group;

R¹⁶ is either O-R¹¹, where R¹¹ is an oxygen protecting group, or OH, or R¹⁰ and R¹⁶ together form a double bond between N10 and C11; and

R¹⁵ is R.

31. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 30, wherein the synthesis of said compound of formula III uses a palladium catalysed coupling step.

32. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 31, wherein the palladium catalyst is Pd(PPh₃)₄, Pd(OCOCH₃)₂, PdCl₂ or Pd(dba)₃.

33. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~either claim 31 or claim 32~~, wherein the coupling reaction is performed under microwave conditions.

34. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 31 to 33~~, wherein the palladium catalyst is solid supported.